

# INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is explain Austin School's commitment to making sure every member of our school community, regardless of their background or personal attributes, is treated with respect and dignity. Austin School strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment for all students and members of our school community.

## POLICY

### Definitions

*Personal attribute:* a feature of a person's background or personal characteristics that is protected by State or Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation. For example: race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion etc.

### Inclusion and diversity

Austin School is committed to creating a school community where all members of our school community are welcomed, accepted and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school.

Austin School acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school community and we will not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others.

Austin School will:

- ensure that all students and members of our school community are treated with respect and dignity
- ensure that students are not discriminated against and where necessary, are accommodated to participate in education and all school activities (e.g. excursions, school events and school programs) on the same basis as their peers
- acknowledge and respond to the diverse needs, identities and strengths of all students
- encourage empathy and fairness towards others
- challenge stereotypes that promote prejudicial and biased behaviours and practices
- contribute to positive learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes for students.

Bullying, harassment and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals because of their personal attributes will not be tolerated in our school community. Students who may have experienced or witnessed this type of behaviour are encouraged to speak up and to let their teachers, parents or carers know about those behaviours to ensure that inappropriate behaviour can be addressed.

Austin School will take appropriate measures, consistent with its *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* policies to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school. Students

that are involved in bullying or harassing others on the basis of their personal attributes will be supported to understand the impact of their behaviour.

At the Austin School, all programs hold meeting to support the learning, wellbeing and transitioning of individual students. These meetings have various names and objectives, they include care team meeting, support groups meetings etc. The membership of each of these meetings is based on the objectives and may include program teacher, the student, carers, CYMHS clinicians and home school staff etc.

Austin School also understands that it has a special obligation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities. A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist all students to participate in their education on the same basis as their peers. Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with disabilities through our Student Support Group processes in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, please refer to our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy or contact Program Leader or School Assistant Principal or Assistant principal on for further information.

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- School Policies:
  - Statement of Values and School Philosophy
  - Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
  - Parent Complaints policy
  - Duty of Care Policy
  - Inclusion and Diversity Policy
  - Equal Opportunity Policy
  
- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - [Engagement](#)
  - [Inclusive Education](#)
  - [Koorie Education](#)
  - [Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture](#)
  - [Safe Schools](#)
  - [Supports and Services](#)
  - [Program for Students with Disabilities](#)
  - [Inclusion Boost Funding and Guidelines](#)

## REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on November 2018 and is scheduled for review in November 2021.

Ratified by School Council November 2018.